LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for controlling echoes within a telecommunication switching system having a plurality of local exchange carriers and a plurality of local telecommunication switches where each of the plurality of local exchange carriers is connected to a plurality of telephone sets attached to a plurality of local telephone switching offices of each of the plurality of local exchange carriers and each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to a plurality of telephone sets, comprising the steps of:

receiving by one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches a call setup message from one of a first plurality of telephone sets connected to one of a first plurality of local exchange carriers with a first trunk circuit interconnecting the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches with the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers;

determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that the call setup message designates one of a second plurality of telephone sets connected to one of a second plurality of local exchange carriers as a destination of the call setup message;

determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a first plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the first plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

providing by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the determination that echo cancellation operations are required for the first one of the first plurality of local telephone switching offices echo cancellation operations for a first call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the first plurality of the local telephone switching offices of the first one of the plurality of local exchange carriers.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the first trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the first trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

activating the first trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on the first call path.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the first trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit, a second trunk circuit, and a third trunk circuit are connected where the third trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step

of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, second trunk circuit, switching network and third trunk circuit; and

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the third trunk circuit.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the second trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the second call path.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit and a second trunk circuit are connected where the second trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network and second trunk circuit; and

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first trunk circuit.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation

capabilities of the first trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit, a second trunk circuit, and a third trunk circuit are connected where the third trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, second trunk circuit, switching network and third trunk circuit;

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first trunk circuit;

determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of the plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the second plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

enabling the third trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the second call path.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the third trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the second call path.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit and a second trunk circuit are connected where the second trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, and second trunk circuit;

enabling the first trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first call path;

determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the second plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the second call path.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the second trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the second call path.

13. (Original) A method for controlling echoes within a telecommunication switching system having a plurality of local exchange

carriers, and a plurality of local telecommunication switches where each of the plurality of local exchange carriers is connected to a plurality of telephone sets attached to a plurality of local telephone switching offices of each of the plurality of local exchange carriers and each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to a plurality of telephone sets and a first and second ones of the plurality of local telecommunication switches interconnected by a third plurality of local exchange carriers, comprising the steps of:

receiving by one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches a call setup message from one of a first plurality of telephone sets connected to one of a first plurality of local exchange carriers via the third plurality of local exchange carriers and the second one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches and a first trunk circuit interconnecting the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches with the third one of the plurality of local exchange carriers;

determining by the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that the call setup message designates one of a second plurality of telephone sets connected to one of a second plurality of local telephone switching offices of one of a second plurality of local exchange carriers as a destination of the call setup message;

determining by the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a first plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the first plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

providing by the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the determination that echo cancellation operations are required for the first one of the first plurality of local telephone switching offices echo cancellation operations for a first

call path from the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the first plurality of the local telephone switching offices of the first one of the plurality of local exchange carriers.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the first trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

activating the first trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on the first call path.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the first trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

16. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit, a second trunk circuit, and a third trunk circuit are connected where the third trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, second trunk circuit, switching network and third trunk circuit; and

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first trunk circuit.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit and a second trunk circuit are connected where the second trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network and second trunk circuit; and

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first trunk circuit.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit, a second trunk circuit, and a third trunk circuit are connected where the third trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, second trunk circuit, switching network and third trunk circuit;

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first trunk circuit;

determining by the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the second plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

enabling the third trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the second call path.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit and a second trunk circuit are connected where the second trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the step of providing comprises the steps of verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, and second trunk circuit;

enabling the first trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first call path;

determining by the first one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the second plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the second call path.

20. (Original) A method for controlling echoes within a telecommunication switching system having a plurality of local exchange carriers, a wide area network, pluralities of softphones, a plurality of remote switches, and a plurality of local telecommunication switches where each of the plurality of local exchange carriers is connected to a plurality of telephone sets attached to a plurality of local telephone switching offices of each of the plurality of local exchange carriers and each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to a plurality of telephone sets and each of the plurality of remote switches is connected to a first plurality of softphones, comprising the steps of:

connecting the plurality of remote switches to each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches via the wide area network;

providing echo cancellation circuits in each of the plurality of remote switches with each echo cancellation circuit having an echo tail length adjusted to eliminate an echo produced by each of the first plurality of softphones;

connecting each of a second plurality of softphones to each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches via the wide area network;

providing an echo cancellation circuit in each of the second plurality of softphones having an echo tail length adjusted to eliminate an echo produced by each of the second plurality of softphones;

connecting one of the plurality of local exchange carriers to the wide area network via one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches with the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers interconnected to the one of the plurality of local telecommunication

switches by a plurality of trunk circuits in the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches; and

providing echo cancellation operations in each of the plurality of trunk circuits adjusted to eliminate echoes produced by the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers on an individual call path basis.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the step of providing echo cancellation operation in each of the plurality of trunk circuits comprises the steps of determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that a call setup message received from the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers via one of the plurality of trunk circuits designates one of the first plurality of softphones connected to the one of the plurality of the local exchange carriers;

determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

enabling the one of the plurality of trunk circuits to provide an echo cancellation operation for a telephone call associated with the call setup message.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the one of the plurality of trunk circuits with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to the wide area network by a Internet Protocol trunk circuit and the step of providing the

echo cancellation operation further comprises providing an additional echo cancellation operation in the Internet Protocol trunk circuit.

24. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to the wide area network by a Internet Protocol trunk circuit and the step of providing echo cancellation operation in the Internet Protocol trunk circuit comprises the steps of determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that a call setup message received from the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers via one of the plurality of trunk circuits designates one of the first plurality of softphones connected to the one of the plurality of the local exchange carriers;

determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

enabling the Internet Protocol trunk circuit to provide an echo cancellation operation for a telephone call associated with the call setup message.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the Internet Protocol trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25 wherein the step of providing the echo cancellation operation further comprises providing an additional echo cancellation operation in the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the step of further providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.

28. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to the wide area network by a Internet Protocol trunk circuit and the step of providing echo cancellation operation in the Internet Protocol trunk circuit comprises the steps of further determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that another call setup message received from the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers via one of the plurality of trunk circuits designates one of the second plurality of softphones connected to the one of the plurality of the local exchange carriers;

determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

enabling the Internet Protocol trunk circuit to provide an echo cancellation operation for a telephone call associated with the other call setup message.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the step of providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the Internet Protocol trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the step of providing the echo cancellation operation further comprises providing an

additional echo cancellation operation in the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of further providing comprises the step of adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.

32. (Original) An apparatus for controlling echoes within a telecommunication switching system having a plurality of local exchange carriers and a plurality of local telecommunication switches where each of the plurality of local exchange carriers is connected to a plurality of telephone sets attached to a plurality of local telephone switching offices of each of the plurality of local exchange carriers and each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to a plurality of telephone sets, comprising:

means for receiving by one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches a call setup message from one of a first plurality of telephone sets connected to one of a first plurality of local exchange carriers with a first trunk circuit interconnecting the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches with the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers;

means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that the call setup message designates one of a second plurality of telephone sets connected to one of a second plurality of local exchange carriers as a destination of the call setup message;

means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a first plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the first

plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

means for providing by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the determination that echo cancellation operations are required for the first one of the first plurality of local telephone switching offices echo cancellation operations for a first call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the first plurality of the local telephone switching offices of the first one of the plurality of local exchange carriers.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the first trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

34. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the means for providing comprises means for verifying that the first trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

means for activating the first trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on the first call path.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the first trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit, a second trunk circuit, and a third trunk circuit are connected where the third trunk circuit is part of a second

call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the means for providing comprises means for verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

means for establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, second trunk circuit, switching network and third trunk circuit; and

means for enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the third trunk circuit.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 36 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the second trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the second call path.

38. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit and a second trunk circuit are connected where the second trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the means for providing comprises means for verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

means for establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network and second trunk circuit; and

means for enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first trunk circuit.

39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the first trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches comprises a switching network to which the first trunk circuit, a second trunk circuit, and a third trunk circuit are connected where the third trunk circuit is part of a second call path from the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches to the first one of the second plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers and the means for providing comprises means for verifying that the second trunk circuit has echo cancellation capabilities;

means for establishing an internal path from the first and second call paths through the first trunk circuit, switching network, second trunk circuit, switching network and third trunk circuit;

means for enabling the second trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the first trunk circuit;

means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of the plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the second plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the second plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

means for enabling the third trunk circuit to provide echo cancellation operations on audio information coming from the second call path.

41. (Original) The apparatus of claim 40 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the third trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the second call path.

42. (Original) An apparatus for controlling echoes within a telecommunication switching system having a plurality of local exchange carriers, a wide area network, pluralities of softphones, a plurality of remote switches, and a plurality of local telecommunication switches where each of the plurality of local exchange carriers is connected to a plurality of telephone sets attached to a plurality of local telephone switching offices of each of the plurality of local exchange carriers and each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to a plurality of telephone sets and each of the plurality of remote switches is connected to a first plurality of softphones, comprising:

means for connecting the plurality of remote switches to each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches via the wide area network;

means for providing echo cancellation circuits in each of the plurality of remote switches with each echo cancellation circuit having an echo tail length adjusted to eliminate an echo produced by each of the first plurality of softphones;

means for connecting each of a second plurality of softphones to each of the plurality of local telecommunication switches via the wide area network;

means for providing an echo cancellation circuit in each of the second plurality of softphones having an echo tail length adjusted to eliminate an echo produced by each of the second plurality of softphones;

means for connecting one of the plurality of local exchange carriers to the wide area network via one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches with the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers interconnected to the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches by a plurality of trunk circuits in the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches; and

means for providing echo cancellation operations in each of the plurality of trunk circuits adjusted to eliminate echoes produced by the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers on an individual call path basis.

43. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the means for providing echo cancellation operation in each of the plurality of trunk circuits comprises means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that a call setup message received from the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers via one of the plurality of trunk circuits designates one of the first plurality of softphones connected to the one of the plurality of the local exchange carriers;

means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

means for enabling the one of the plurality of trunk circuits to provide an echo cancellation operation for a telephone call associated with the call setup message.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the one of the plurality of trunk circuits with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

45. (Original) The apparatus of claim 44 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to the wide area network by a Internet Protocol trunk circuit and the means for providing the echo cancellation operation further comprises providing an additional echo cancellation operation in the Internet Protocol trunk circuit.

46. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to the wide area network by a Internet Protocol trunk circuit and the means for providing echo cancellation operation in the Internet Protocol trunk circuit comprises means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that a call setup message received from the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers via one of the plurality of trunk circuits designates one of the first plurality of softphones connected to the one of the plurality of the local exchange carriers;

means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

means for enabling the Internet Protocol trunk circuit to provide an echo cancellation operation for a telephone call associated with the call setup message.

47. (Original) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the Internet Protocol trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the means for providing the echo cancellation operation further comprises providing an additional echo cancellation operation in the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.

49. (Original) The apparatus of claim 48 wherein the means for providing comprises further adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.

50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 42 wherein the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches is connected to the wide area network by a Internet Protocol trunk circuit and the means for providing echo cancellation operation in the Internet Protocol trunk circuit comprises means for further determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches that another call setup message received from the one of the plurality of local exchange carriers via one of the plurality of trunk circuits designates one of the second plurality of softphones connected to the one of the plurality of the local exchange carriers;

means for determining by the one of the plurality of local telecommunication switches in response to the call setup message that a first one of a plurality of local telephone switching offices of the one of the first plurality of local exchange carriers to which the one of the plurality of telephone sets is connected requires echo cancellation operations; and

means for enabling the Internet Protocol trunk circuit to provide an echo cancellation operation for a telephone call associated with the other call setup message.

51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 50 wherein the means for providing comprises means for adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the Internet Protocol trunk circuit with respect to an echo tail length for the first call path.

52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the means for providing the echo cancellation operation further comprises providing an additional echo cancellation operation in the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.

53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 52 wherein the means for providing comprises further adjusting the echo cancellation capabilities of the one of the plurality of trunk circuits.